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OFFICE OF CHINESE AFFAIRS
AUG 8 1950
DEPARTMENT OF STATE

CA - Mr. O. E. Clubb

CA - Mr. W. McAfee

August 4, 1950

Reconnaissance of China Mainland Coast

As indicated by you the other day in the CA staff meeting, the critical time for an invasion of Taiwan is from now until the early part of September. After this period, an invasion will not be likely for quite a few months. During the months when an invasion would be unlikely the importance of reconnaissance over the coast might be somewhat lessened.

In my opinion, consideration should be given to measures of assistance and advice to the Chinese Airforce which would enable it to reach the point where it alone could carry on the needed reconnaissance during and possibly after the period starting in late September. Such assistance might be in the provision of jet-type reconnaissance planes, necessary photographic equipment, developing equipment, and advice and assistance in the interpretation of photographs obtained.

It might be appropriate for someone in the Department of State to discuss this matter informally with the Department of Defense with a view to obtaining the opinions of the military on the feasiblity of such a project. There would appear to be definite political advantages in freeing U.S. planes from acting over the China coast.

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